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WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE SUPREME COURT LET STAND TODAY A RULING THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY CAN FIRE ANYONE HE CHOOSES, FOR ALMOST ANY REASON HE LIKES.

THE JUSTICES, WITHOUT COMMENT, REFUSED TO REVIEW THE DECISION GIVING THE DIRECTOR SUCH AUTHORITY.

THE DIRECTOR'S CLAIM OF VIRTUALLY UNRESTRICTED DISMISSAL AUTHORITY WAS CHALLENGED BY SIX FORMER CIA EMPLOYEES WHO LOST THEIR JOBS IN 1973 AND 1974 DURING A MASSIVE GENERAL CUTBACK IN PERSONNEL.

THE CUTS, STARTED BY THEN-DIRECTOR JAMES A. SCHLESINGER, ELIMINATED AN ESTIMATED 2,000 CIA JOBS OVER SEVERAL YEARS, THE SIX MEN REPORTED.

THE SPY AGENCY CLAIMED IT HAD THE AUTHORITY FOR THE SWEEPING DISMISSALS UNDER THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT.

A SECTION OF THE ACT GAVE THE CIA DIRECTOR, REGARDLESS OF OTHER LAWS, "MAY, IN HIS DISCRETION, TERMINATE THE EMPLOYMENT OF ANY OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE AGENCY WHENEVER HE SHALL DEEM SUCH TERMINATION NECESSARY OR ADVISABLE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES."

DISMISSED EMPLOYEES MAURICE E. BAKER, LAWRENCE F. DAUX, ELURINO L. LOIACONO, OLIVER W. PERRY, WESLEY A. WRIGHT, JR., AND THOMAS E. YOUNG WENT TO COURT IN 1979, CLAIMING THEY WERE ENTITLED TO JOB PROTECTION UNDER THE VETERANS PREFERENCE ACT.

THEY CLAIMED THAT IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT, CONGRESS INTENDED THE CIA'S DISCRETIONARY FIRING AUTHORITY TO APPLY TO EMPLOYEES WHO, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, WERE DEEMED SECURITY RISKS.

THEY SAID THEY WERE NOT CONSIDERED SECURITY RISKS AND WERE FIRED ONLY AS "SURPLUS" PERSONNEL.

THE CIA ARGUED THAT THE BROAD FIRING POWER DID NOT APPLY ONLY TO SECURITY RISKS, BUT WAS IN FACT A GENERAL AUTHORITY TO BE USED AS THE DIRECTOR SAW FIT.

THE U. S. SUPREME COURT DISMISSED THE EX-EMPLOYEES' LAWSUIT SEEKING BACK PAY.